### **Chapter Two**

# Preadmission Screening and Annual Resident Review (PASARR)

#### Introduction

The information in this chapter addresses Preadmission Screening and Annual Resident Review (PASARR) requirements for applicants to and residents of Medicaid-certified nursing facilities.

#### In This Chapter

This chapter contains:

Topic	Page
PASARR Program	2-1
PASARR Process: Level I, Level II, and Tracking	2-4
PASARR Process Flow	2-7
Attachments:	
Attachment A: North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form	2-9
Attachment B: North Carolina Level I Screening Form	2-10

#### **PASARR Program**

#### **Background**

The Preadmission Screening and Annual Resident Review (PASARR) program is a federal statutory requirement that became effective January 1989 as a result of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987 (P.L. 100-203). This section of OBRA was enacted to assure that individuals with serious mental illness (SMI), mental retardation (MR), and/or conditions related to mental retardation (RC) entering or residing in Medicaid-certified nursing facilities receive appropriate placement and services.

This federal regulation mandates review of every individual who applies to or resides in Medicaid-certified nursing facilities regardless of the source of payment for nursing facility services.

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#### PASARR Program, continued

#### **Definitions**

**SMI,** or serious mental illness, is evident if an individual is known or suspected to have a combination of a major psychiatric condition and a recent history of treatment for, and/or symptoms of that condition. A primary diagnosis of dementia or a sole psychiatric diagnosis of an organic disorder is excluded.

**MR**, or mental retardation, involves a measure of intellectual functioning that exists concurrently with adaptive functioning deficits.

**RC**, or a related condition, is any severe or chronic disability such as cerebral palsy, autism, or a head injury that manifests itself prior to age 22, continues indefinitely, and results in substantial functional limitations.

#### Who is Subject to PASARR Screens

**All** applicants to and residents of Medicaid-certified nursing facilities, whether they are funded by Medicaid or utilize other sources of payment, must be screened through the Level I and, if appropriate, the Level II process.

Residents of these facilities who exhibit significant change in mental health or mental retardation needs must also be rescreened through Level I as a "*status change*." A change in status can occur for residents with newly discovered diagnoses or symptoms of SMI, MR or RC, as well as residents known to have SMI, MR or RC but whose treatment needs for those conditions change significantly.

#### Facilities Not Subject to Level I and Level II Screens

Adult care homes, hospital swing beds, CAP services, and nursing facilities that are **not** Medicaid-certified are exempt from Level I or Level II PASARR screens. A small number of nursing facilities in North Carolina have a "distinct part" that participates in the Medicaid program as a nursing facility and another "distinct part" that participates in the Medicare program as a skilled nursing facility. Persons seeking admission to the **Medicare** distinct part, as long as that "part" is not Medicaid-certified, are also exempt from the Level I and Level II processes.

If an individual is transferred from any of these placements into a Medicaid-certified nursing facility bed (or Medicaid-certified "part" of a nursing facility), that person must have a Level I and, if applicable, a Level II screen before that transfer can occur.

Continued on next page

#### PASARR Program, continued

Applicants for Whom a Level II May be Postponed Federal and state rules allow short-term nursing facility admissions for some **applicants with SMI, MR or RC**. These **time-limited** approvals are authorized by the PASARR contractor during the Level I screen process when any of the following four circumstances are applicable:

- <u>Convalescent care</u> (30-day approval): applies to admissions to nursing facilities directly from acute care hospitals. The individual must need 30 days or less nursing facility care for the hospitalization condition and the attending physician must provide certification that nursing facility stay is not expected to exceed 30 days.
- <u>Emergency</u> (7-day approval): applies to situations where the individual needs emergency protective service placement
- <u>Delirium</u> (7-day approval): applies to individuals suspected as having SMI, MR, or RC, however a delirium state affects accurate completion of the Level I and/or Level II processes
- Respite (7-day approval): applies to individuals whose in-home caregivers need temporary respite

If Residence is Expected to Extend Beyond the End Date If residence in the facility is expected to extend beyond the end date, further approval and screening must be obtained through the PASARR contractor before the authorized period ends. The admitting facility is responsible for initiating further screening through an updated Level I screen:

- within five (5) calendar days of the individual's date of admission for seven (7) day approvals,
- within twenty-five (25) calendar days for thirty (30) day approvals, and
- within fifty (50) calendar days for sixty (60) day approvals.

If the individual is Medicaid-eligible and is approved for continued stay through the updated Level I/II process, Medicaid's fiscal agent's Prior Approval Unit <u>must</u> be contacted for payment to continue.

The PASARR Contractor's Short-Term Approval PASARR numbers ending in D, E, and F reflect short-term approvals.

- "D" represents 7-day approvals
- "E" represents 30-day approvals
- "F" represents 60-day approvals

As instructed under "To Obtain Copy of Screening Results", it is the facility's responsibility to request screening results from the PASARR contractor as each new admission occurs. Submission of the North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form (see Attachment A) by the facility prompts the PASARR contractor to issue written notification explaining the approval. The PASARR contractor's reviewers also perform telephone follow-up with providers to explain screening requirements for short-term approvals. The telephone follow-up relies upon receipt of a North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form from the admitting facility or contact by the discharging facility to report the individual's admitting location.

Continued on next page

#### PASARR Program, continued

#### Identifying Persons with SMI, MR or RC

The OBRA law requires the state to manage a Level I, or identifying process, for all applicants to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities. Level I screens involve a brief phone or fax-based review on a state-designated form which asks questions about known or suspected SMI, MR or RC.

Level II screens are federally mandated to be performed on-site and prior to admission for all SMI, MR, and RC applicants to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities (preadmission screen). Subsequent assessments known as Annual Resident Reviews (ARRs) must continue annually thereafter for those individuals.

# Who Performs PASARR Evaluations

Electronic Data System (EDS) is the DMA contractor responsible for managing the Level I and Level II processes in North Carolina. Level I information may be communicated to EDS by:

- phone (1-800-688-6696),
- fax (1-866-216-3424), or
- the ProviderLink web portal (www.providerlink.com)

Reviewers are available from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding North Carolina state holidays.

Level II evaluations are performed by qualified local North Carolina clinicians who are employed by the PASARR contractor.

#### PASARR Process: Level I, Level II, and Tracking

#### General Information

For residents with no evidence or diagnosis of SMI, MR or RC, the initial Level I remains valid forever, regardless of changes in care level and regardless of when the Level I was completed.

For screenings completed after February 1994, a PASARR number is provided to reflect Level I and, if applicable, Level II screening results.

The PASARR number should be indicated in block 10 of the FL2.

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#### PASARR Process: Level I, Level II, and Tracking, continued

#### PASARR Process Explanation

At the conclusion of the Level I or, if applicable, Level II screen, a PASARR number is assigned by the PASARR contractor. **This number must be added to Block 10 of the FL2**. The issuing of PASARR numbers began on February 4, 1994 for **all** applicants to or residents of Medicaid-certified nursing facilities. If an individual who has resided in a nursing facility prior to February, 1994 has a change in payment, medical or mental status and does not have a PASARR number, the PASARR contractor **must** be contacted to initiate the Level I and, if applicable, the Level II screening process.

Medicaid's fiscal agent no longer accepts authorizations granted prior to February, 1994. The PASARR contractor **must be contacted for screening** before the fiscal agent will approve the nursing facility level of care.

When residents have diagnoses or evidence of SMI, MR, or RC, but do not have a PASARR number, the facility **must** contact the PASARR contractor to initiate the Level I and, if appropriate, Level II screen.

#### Who Completes Level I Screens

The county department of social services or appropriate clinical staff from the referral source should send Level I screening information to the PASARR contractor. The individual **must** be familiar enough with the applicant/recipient to respond to clinical and/or medical status questions.

#### How Much of Level I Should Be Completed

If there is clearly no evidence of SMI, MR, or RC, complete or be prepared to report information through Section III (page 2) of the Level I form. If there is evidence or suspicion of one or more of these conditions, complete or be prepared to report all sections of the protocol.

#### To Obtain Copy of Screening Results

The North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form must be sent to the PASARR contractor by the receiving facility for all new admissions in order for the receiving facility to obtain a copy of the Level I and, if appropriate, the Level II results. Transfers of individuals previously evaluated through the Level II PASARR process, as discussed in a later section, must also be reported to the PASARR contractor via the North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form.

#### Purpose of Tracking Form for First Time Admission

The North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form indicates to the PASARR contractor that an applicant has been admitted to a Medicaid-certified nursing facility. The PASARR contractor can then forward appropriate screening information to the receiving facility. Level I and, if applicable, Level II **results must be kept in the individual's medical records** so they are available to the facility's care planning team and to state or federal auditors.

Both Level I and Level II information must be transferred with the resident upon transfer to another Medicaid-certified nursing facility. Unless there is a change in mental status, no further contact with the PASARR contractor is required for residents who are **not** subject to the PASARR Level II process. **Receiving facilities must report admission of a resident who has been screened by the Level II process.** 

Continued on the next page

#### PASARR Process: Level I, Level II, and Tracking, continued

#### Purpose of Tracking Form for Residents in Level II Process

The North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form indicates the location of all individuals residing in a Medicaid-certified nursing facility who are subject to annual reviews through the PASARR Level II program. The ARR assessments must be performed within the quarter of the prior PASARR assessment anniversary date for Level II persons who continued to reside in Medicaid-certified nursing facilities.

The North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form is a mechanism used to monitor location and due date information to assure timely PASARR assessments for persons with SMI, MR or RC and **must be submitted** for these Level II residents if:

- a Level II resident transfers to another Medicaid-certified facility
- a Level II resident expires
- a Level II resident is discharged from the nursing facility system

Discharge means that the resident has either been placed in a less restrictive setting than the nursing facility or the resident no longer resides in a Medicaid-certified nursing facility bed.

For example, if a nursing facility has adult care home beds and the Level II resident transfers to the adult care home level of care, he/she is no longer subject to PASARR, and the PASARR contractor should be notified of that discharge. The adult care home level of care, even if the adult care home beds are part of a Medicaid-certified nursing facility, is not subject to PASARR requirements.

#### When Does a New Level I Need to be Performed?

A Level I screen remains valid unless there is a significant change in a resident's status that affects his/her mental health or mental retardation treatment needs. This means that if a resident is discovered to have SMI, MR or RC after the Level I was performed, the receiving facility must call the PASARR contractor to perform an updated Level I. Updates to the Level I should also occur if a resident in the PASARR process exhibits an increase in behavioral problems or symptoms or if an individual with MR makes significant medical improvement and may be a candidate for special treatment services.

Level I screens **do not** need to be done again except when a resident with known or suspected SMI, MR or RC has not been previously assessed through the PASARR contractor or if no prior Level I has been completed.

Call 1-800-688-6696 for additional information or clarification.

- For procedure clarification or problem resolution, ask for the NC PASARR clinical manager
- For general information on procedures, ask for a NC PASARR reviewer.

#### **PASARR Process Flow**

#### Preadmission Level I

The referral source completes the North Carolina Level I Screening Form (see Attachment B) and contacts the PASARR contractor for a PASARR number either by:

- phone (1-800-688-6696),
- fax (1-866-216-3424), or
- through the ProviderLink web portal (http://www.providerlink.com)

If a Level II screen is not needed, a PASARR number is assigned by the PASARR contractor (enter in block 10 on the FL2).

If the individual is a Medicaid recipient, the referral source contacts Medicaid's fiscal agent (1-800-688-6696 or 1-919-851-8888) and proceeds with the Medicaid nursing facility prior approval process (refer to Chapter 3, Prior Approval).

The receiving nursing facility submits the North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form to the PASARR contractor. The PASARR contractor will forward the North Carolina Level I Screening Form to the nursing facility for the resident's file.

# Time Limited Stays

The referral source completes the North Carolina Level I Screening Form and contacts the PASARR contractor for a PASARR number.

- If a Level II screening is not needed, a time limit and a PASARR number is assigned by the PASARR contractor with an alpha ending of D, E, or F.
- If the individual is a Medicaid recipient, the referral source contacts Medicaid's fiscal agent (1-800-688-6696 or 1-919-851-8888) and proceeds with the Medicaid nursing facility prior approval process (refer to Chapter 3, Prior Approval).

The receiving nursing facility submits the North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form to the PASARR contractor.

- If the resident is to remain beyond the authorized time frame, the receiving facility contacts the PASARR contractor prior to the end-date to update the Level I information (contact within 5 days for a 7-day authorization; contact within 25 days for a 30-day authorization; contact within 50 days for a 60-day authorization)
- If approved, the PASARR contractor issues the new PASARR number.
- If a Level II screen is needed, the PASARR contractor completes the Level II evaluation.
- If approved through the Level II process, the facility contacts Medicaid's fiscal agent to update the prior approval

#### Status Change (New Level I Required)

To request a status change, the nursing facility staff completes the North Carolina Level I Screening Form and contacts the PASARR contractor to re-evaluate the resident.

The same process is followed as with the Preadmission Level I or Level II except that a North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form is not required regarding admission.

Continued on next page

#### PASARR Process Flow, continued

#### Level II

The PASARR contractor notifies the referral source that a Level II PASARR screen is required and requests that medical records be available for the on-site assessor.

- A face to face in-depth assessment is performed by the field assessor.
- When the final determination is made, a PASARR number is assigned, if appropriate and sent to the referral source.
- A letter is mailed by the PASARR contractor to the resident/responsible party informing them of the final decision and their appeal rights.
- If the individual is a Medicaid recipient, the referral source contacts Medicaid's fiscal agent (1-800-688-6696 or 1-919-851-8888) and proceeds with the Medicaid nursing facility prior approval process (refer to Chapter 3, Prior Approval).

The receiving nursing facility submits the North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form to the PASARR contractor. The PASARR contractor will forward the North Carolina Level I Screening Form to the nursing facility for the resident's file.

#### Annual Resident Review (ARR)

ARR lists are distributed quarterly to nursing facilities by the PASARR contractor. The nursing facilities verify the lists and the ARR lists/North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form are returned to the PASARR contractor. The same process is followed as with the Level II process.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment A: Tracking Form

Attachment B: Level I Screening Form

## Sample of the North Carolina Nursing Facilities Tracking Form

TRACKING FORM		ox 300015, Raleigh, NC 27622-0015 : 1-800-688-6696 / Fax: 1-866-216-3424
(Please Print) Resident/Applicant Demographic Information		
Last name	First name	Middle Initial
Social Security Number	Date of Birth	PASARR Number (if applicable
mmediate Response!! Complet	e This Section for Call Back of	Existing Patient PASARR #:
Requestors Name:	Requestor (to rece	ve #):
Call Back Phone #:	(You still must co	omplete Tracking Secrology
Section I: NEW ADMISSIONS (T Complete for NF admissions to Admitting Facility:	receive screen result (Level I,	
Address:	/	(m)
Section II: Purpose of Tracking Request for copy of Level Notifying EDS of a change Section III: TRANSFERRED, DIS	Il Screening In in the tient's tion or sta	DIVIDUALS
Request for copy of Level Notifying EDS of a change Section III: TRANSFERRED, DIS Complete for individuals A. TRANSFER (Trackin Patient location changes within Hospital/General	CHA CECEASED INITIAL STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF	DIVIDUALS screens.
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## Sample of the North Carolina Level I Screening Form

	SS#:
ailing Address:	Medicaid # Sex Sex
Referring Facility:	DOB: Pmt. Status;Marital Status; Admit Date to Nursing Facility:
racility Address:	Admitting Facility:
	Address:
Telephone:	Contact Person:
Submitted By:	Telephone:
Submitter's Signature & Title:	Patient's Current Location: Address:
Does the individual desire NF services?	County:
SECTION I: MENTAL ILLNESS SCREEN	3.C. Significant problems adapting to typical changes within 6
A. Psychiatric Diagnoses excluding Dementia, Alzheimer's, and/or	months due to MI ( <u>excluding</u> medical problems, Dementia Alzheimer's, and/or Organic Brain D/Os)
Organic Brain Disorders Anxiety/panic disorder Psychotic disorder	Y N Requires mental health intervention due to
Bipolar Disorder Somatoform disorder  Delusional Disorder Schizophrenia	increased symptoms Y N Requires judicial intervention due to symptoms
Schizoaffective disorder Major Depression	Y N Symptoms have increased as a result of adaptation
Eating disorder (specify)	difficulties
Personality disorder (specify) Other:	Y N Serious agitation or awal due to adaptation difficulties
.B. Psychiatric Medication Diagnosis / Purpose	Y N Other Notes:
	10003.
	NC Medicaid VLY: Decision;
NC Medicaid USE ONLY: Meets diagnosis criteria for diagnosis/chronicity	/? Meets criteria bility? Meets criteria for SMI?
Y N UTD  P.A. Psychiatric treatment received in past 2 years (excluding)	TION AL RETARDATION SCREEN
treatment for Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O's)	MR) osis: N Y
Include dates of the hospitalization(s) Inpatient psych, hosp.	d voderate Severe Profound gnosed but suspected MR: N Y N/A
Partial hosp./day treatment	ry of receipt of MR services: N
Outpatient treatment	specify):
P.B. intervention(s) to prevent hospitalization(s). Include ste(s)  Supportive living (due to MI)	O. O of before age 18:NY (if yes, specify age):
Housing intervention (due to MI)	Education Level
Legal intervention (due to MI) Other:	History of gainful employment? N — Y Ability to handle finances? N Y
NC Medicaid USE ONLY: Meets criteria	
Role limitations in past 6 months due Ve vedical	NC Medicaid USE ONLY: Meets criteria for MR?
problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and	SECTION III: RELATED CONDITIONS SCREEN
Indicate: "F" Frequently casiona  A.A. Interpersonal Fung	1.A. Related Condition diagnosis which impairs intellectual
Dementia, Alzhei/ ic \ nn D/O)	functioning or adaptive behavior:BlindnessDeafnessDeafness
F O N Altercation F O N Evictions N Excessive irritability	Closed Head Injury Other  1.B. Substantial functional limitations 3 or more of the following
	secondary to Related Condition and not a medical condition:
FON Fear of stranger / ON Easily upset/anxious	
F O N Fear of stranger O N Easily upset/anxious F O N Illogical commen F O N Hallucinations	
FON OtherFON Serious communication	Self-direction ——Capability for independent living
FON OtherFON Serious communication	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication difficulties  Please note dates:	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22?
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication of ifficulties Please note dates:  B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language? N Y specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22? N Y
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication difficulties Please note dates:  B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O)	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language? N Y specify if yes:
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication of ifficulties Please note dates:  B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O) F O N Serious difficulty completing age related tasks F O N Serious loss of interest in things	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language? N Y specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22? N Y
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication difficulties Please note dates:    B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O)   F O N Serious difficulty completing age related tasks     F O N Serious of interest in things     F O N Serious difficulty maintaining concentration/attention	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22?NY  NC Medicaid USE-ONLY: Meets-criteria for Related Condition?
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication difficulties Please note dates:  B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O) F O N Serious difficulty completing age related tasks F O N Serious loss of interest in things F O N Serious difficulty maintaining concentration/attention F O N Numerous errors in completing tasks which she/he should be physically capable	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22?NY  NC Medicaid USE-ONLY: Meets-criteria for Related Condition?
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication F O N Sucide attempt/ideations difficulties Please note dates:    B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI   (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or   Organic Brain D/O)   F O N Serious difficulty completing age related tasks   F O N Serious toss of interest in things   F O N Serious difficulty maintaining concentration/attention   F O N Numerous errors in completing tasks which she/he should be physically capable   F O N Requires assistance with tasks for which she/he	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22?NY  NC Medicaid-USE-ONLY: Meets-criteria for Related-Condition?
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Other F O N Serious communication difficulties Please note dates:  B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Alzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O) F O N Serious difficulty completing age related tasks F O N Serious loss of interest in things F O N Serious difficulty maintaining concentration/attention F O N Numerous errors in completing tasks which she/he should be physically capable	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22?NY  NC Medicaid-USE-ONLY: Meets-criteria for Related-Condition?Y UTD
F O N Illogical comment F O N Hallucinations F O N Suicide attempt/ideations Please note dates:  B.B. Concentration/Task limitations within past 6 months due to MI (excluding medical problems, Dementia, Atzheimer's and/or Organic Brain D/O) F O N Serious difficulty completing age related tasks F O N Serious difficulty maintaining concentration/attention F O N Serious difficulty maintaining concentration/attention F O N Numerous errors in completing tasks which she/he should be physically capable F O N Requires assistance with tasks for which she/he should be physically capable of accomplishing	Self-direction Capability for independent living Understanding/use of language?NY specify if yes:  1.C. Was the condition manifested prior to the age 22?NY  NC Medicaid USE-ONLY: Meets-criteria for Related-Condition?Y UTD

Please Print North Carolina Lev Page	el I Screening Form Confidential Two
atient Name:	Patient Social Security Number:
SECTION IV: DEMENTIA (complete for both MI & MR)  A. Does the individual have a primary diagnosis of Dementia or Alzheimer's?  N	North Carolina Level of Care criteria for placement.  "Further evaluation requirements are specified below:  3.A Terminal illness with life expectancy of 6 months or less
	"CONFIDENTIAL"